

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of 06 October 2003. Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-21 are pending in the application, and Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-21 have been rejected.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended.

No new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments above and remarks below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination.

About The Invention

The present invention relates generally to information and resource management, typically in the context of an information apparatus. More particularly, various embodiments of the present invention provide for enhancing coordination between acquisition resources and exploiting resources, via information association resources. Such information association resources may coordinate with acquisition resources so as to reduce the amount of user skill and/or effort consumed in distributing any particular information to any particular exploiting resource.

Non-narrowing Amendment of Claim 12

Claim 12 has been amended in a non-narrowing manner to correct the punctuation thereof. More particularly, a semicolon has been inserted between subpart (a) and subpart (b). No change in the scope of Claim 12 is intended by this amendment.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner states that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the Claims, and therefore the "distributing a pointer to the acquired information stored at the information apparatus" in Claim 1, must be shown or the features cancelled from the Claims.

Applicants respectfully note that Claim 1 has been amended, consistent with the specification, to recite that the staging facilities support indirect distribution of the acquired information by storing (rather than distributing) a pointer to the acquired information stored at the information apparatus. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 17, lines 22-28. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that recited structural element at issue here is the staging facility, which is indeed shown in the drawings at Fig. 2, reference numeral 230. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More particularly, the Examiner states that the limitation of "distributing a pointer to the acquired information stored at the information apparatus" is not described or disclosed in the specification.

As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended, consistent with the specification, to recite that the staging facilities support indirect distribution of the acquired information by storing (rather than distributing) a pointer to the acquired information stored at the information apparatus. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 17, lines 22-28. Since Claim 1, as amended is supported by the specification, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection

under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Astarabadi, (US Patent 5,822,405) in view of Takahashi, et al., (US Patent 6,029,068). With respect to independent Claim 1, the Examiner states that Astarabadi teaches an information apparatus for general information and resource management, comprising:

a plurality of acquisition resources, the plurality of acquisition resources configured to acquire information and directives, the information comprising multiple data types, (col. 3, lines 1-40, and col. 5, line 20 through col. 6, line 34);

a plurality of distribution resources, coupled to the acquisition resources so as to receive and distribute all or part of the acquired information (col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 34; and col. 8, lines 17-41);

association resources, coupled to the acquisition and distribution resources, the association resources configured to provide an association annotation to the distribution resources, whereby the distribution resources distribute responsive to the association annotation (col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 34); and

wherein the association annotation is based, at least in part, on an acquired directive, (col. 5, line 20 through col. 6, line 34); and wherein the distribution resources comprise staging facilities supporting indirect distribution of the acquired information, (col. 6, line 35 through col. 7, line 32),

and, the Examiner further states that while Astarabadi does not teach the directives comprising control commands associated with information and does not teach distributing a pointer to the acquired information stored at the information apparatus, Takahashi, et al., teach these last two elements at col. 35, line 27 through col. 37, line 45; and col.39, line 40 through col. 40, line 29.

Since Claims 11 and 13 were previously cancelled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 11 and 13 is moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's characterization of the disclosure of Astarabadi is not correct with respect to the assertion that Astarabadi teaches acquisition resources that acquire information comprising multiple data types at col. 3, lines 1-40; and col. 5, line 20 through col. 6, line 34. The cited disclosures appear to only deal with a single type of data, and that is voice data. The voice mail messages and the announcements of the voice mail system are voice, i.e., audio, data. This is different than the invention defined by Applicants' Claims in which multiple data types are expressly recited.

By this amendment, Claim 1 has been amended, consistent with the specification, to recite that the staging facilities support indirect distribution of the acquired information by, prior to distribution of the acquired information, storing a pointer to the acquired information stored at the information apparatus, as well storing the association annotation and status data. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 17, lines 22-28. As disclosed in Applicants' specification, and reflected in the amended Claims, the acquired data is stored along with status, pointer, and an association annotation. Additionally, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the acquired directive has a first complexity and that the association annotation has a second complexity that is greater than the first complexity. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 25, lines 9-16. Neither Takahashi, et al., or Astarabadi, appear to disclose, suggest, or provide motivation for the invention defined by amended Claim 1.

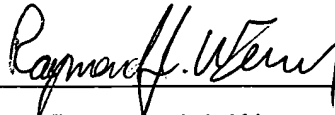
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) has been overcome. Additionally, for at least the reasons set forth above, the rejections of Claims 2-10, 12, and 14-21, which depend, directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 1, have also been overcome.

Conclusion

All of the rejections in the outstanding Office Action of 06 October 2003 have been responded to, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Portland, Oregon